

1A  
3  
5  
SAC, New York

February 7, 1946

RECORDED  
EX-64  
John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

ALBERT CANUS, with alias P. I. Corus  
SPECIAL INQUIRY - STATE DEPARTMENT

SE  
The above captioned individual is reportedly the New York correspondent of "Combat" (a newspaper in Paris, France.) This individual has been filing inaccurate reports which are unfavorable to the public interest of this country, according to the State Department.

The Bureau indices reflect that in March of 1945 Canus was listed as editor-in-chief of "Combat" by the Interdepartmental Committee for Accusation of Foreign Publications. A confidential source further indicated Canus was on a committee in France which met to form a European Federation Unit of the Movement for Socialism and Liberty. The delegates were representatives of unions in the resistance movements in France.

The New York City Field Division is requested to definitely establish that Canus is in this country and to conduct a preliminary investigation in an effort to ascertain his background, activities and affiliations in this country.

A copy of this letter is being furnished to the Washington Field Division in order that an examination of the State Department's records, in particular the Visa Section, may be made in regard to Canus. The Washington Field Division is requested to furnish the Bureau and the New York Field Division with all available information as soon as possible.

It is requested that this matter be given expeditious attention.

cc - Washington

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2-3-88 BY [signature]

JJC:IGS

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Gandy

R418

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON



In reply refer to

FC

Received from the State Department  
through Liaison channels  
Date 2/1/46

b7C

January 31, 1946

To: The Honorable  
J. Edgar Hoover, Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation.

From: Frederick B. Lyon  
Chief, Division of  
Foreign Activity Correlation.

The Department of State has received information to the effect that Albert Camus, alias P. F. Corus, New York Correspondent of Combat (a newspaper in Paris, France); has been filing inaccurate reports which are unfavorable to the public interest of this country.

I should appreciate it very much if the Bureau would make a preliminary investigation of Mr. Camus and his activities.

RECORDED  
INDEXED  
SF 316  
4/1/46

62-50465-1

X-64

Letter from  
cc Washington  
8-7-46 JFE.

for

## Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

DATE: FEBRUARY 15, 1946

FROM : GUY HOTTEL, SAC, WASHINGTON FIELD

SUBJECT: ALBERT CANUS, alias, P. F. Corus  
SPECIAL INQUIRY - STATE DEPARTMENT

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated February 7, 1946, requesting that the records of the State Department be checked for any information concerning the above entitled individual who is reportedly the New York correspondent for the French newspaper, COMBAT.

This is to advise that Confidential National Defense Informant [ ] whose identity is known to the Bureau, advised that a check of the records of the General Files of the State Department failed to reflect any information on either ALBERT CANUS or P. F. CORUS. Confidential National Defense Informant [ ] also made a check with the Visa Division of the State Department which check was made with negative results.

Accordingly, in view of this information, no further inquiry is being made by this office, and the case is being REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

ECK:cw  
77-18333

cc: New York

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2-3-88 BY SP2 BTJ/af

RECORDED  
&  
INDEXED

EX-38

162 804 DG - 2  
FBI  
24 FEB 28 1946

b7C

59 MAR 7 1946

**Federal Bureau of Investigation**  
**United States Department of Justice**

March 2, 1946

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TO: Collectors of Customs

DECLASSIFIED BY SP 81573/28  
ON 2-3-88

SUBJECT: Albert Canus, with aliases:  
P. F. Corus, Albert Camus

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, is interested in Albert Canus, who is expected to enter the United States sometime in March 1946. No description of Canus is available.

In the event this individual attempts to enter into a port in your district, it would be appreciated if you will notify by telephone, collect, the nearest Field Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and at the same time notify that office that the New York Field Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation is particularly interested in Albert Canus.

Very truly yours,

*J. E. Hoover*  
J. EDGAR HOOVER  
Director

Approved: *[Signature]*  
Bureau of Customs

*Letters sent to all Bureau of Customs  
3 14 - 4  
The*

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

**NEW YORK, NEW YORK**

NO FILE NO. **105-287**

ep

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW ORLEANS, LA.</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>3/18/46</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>3/8, 11/46</b>	REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>
TITLE <b>ALBERT CANUS, was: P.F. CORUS, Albert Camus</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>SPECIAL INQUIRY-STATE DEPARTMENT</b>

b7C

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

No record of subject's entry at New Orleans, since 2/1/46. Local stops placed with Customs and Immigration, New Orleans.

- RUC -

AGENCY ICC  
REQ. REC'D 11-2-46  
REP'T FORW. 11-2-46  
BY all

**REFERENCE:**

New York letter to Washington Field, February 25, 1946.

**DETAILS:**

At New Orleans, Louisiana:

b7C

At the Record, Room, Immigration and Naturalization Service, a check was made by the writer of all incoming ship and plane passenger manifests since February 1, 1946, under subject's name and aliases with negative results.

made a check of Immigration indices under subject's name and aliases with negative results, but did locate file 7000/1566 under the name of

This file reflected that

Inasmuch as no description of subject CANUS is available, it is not known whether

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <i>C. E. Weeks</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 2 - New York 2 - New Orleans COPIES DESTROYED 20 6 NOV 18, 1964		62-804015-3	RECORDED & INDEXED
		ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2-3-88 BY 20520	



NO 105-287

CANU might be identical, and no further action is being taken along this line.

A stop notice was placed with [redacted] Secretary to the Officer in Charge, Immigration and Naturalization Service, and with Agent [redacted] Customs Agency Service, to notify this office in the event of arrival of anyone under subject's name or aliases.

b7C

~~REFERRED~~ UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN-

NO 105-287

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE NEW YORK FIELD DIVISION

AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK:

Upon the entry of subject, will notify the New Orleans Field Division, in order that the local stops with Customs and Immigration may be cancelled.

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

NO FILE NO.

105-287

ep

REPORT MADE AT  NEW ORLEANS, LA.	DATE WHEN MADE  3/18/46	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE  3/8, 11/46	REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>
TITLE ALBERT CANUS, was: F.F. CORUS, Albert Canus			CHARACTER OF CASE SPECIAL INQUIRY-STATE DEPARTMENT

b7C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: No record of subject's entry at New Orleans, since 2/1/46. Local steps placed with Customs and Immigration, New Orleans.

- RUC -

REFERENCE: New York letter to Washington Field, February 25, 1946.

DETAILS: At New Orleans, Louisiana:

At the Record, Room, Immigration and Naturalization Service, a check was made by the writer of all incoming ship and plane passenger manifests since February 1, 1946, under subject's name and aliases with negative results.

made a check of Immigration indices under subject's name and aliases with negative results, but did locate file 7000/1566 under the name of

This file reflected that

b7C

Inasmuch as no description of subject CANUS is available, it is not known whether

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 2 - New York 2 - New Orleans		ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2-3-88 BY 205 21510/020



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
~~BY SPECIAL MESSENGER~~

Date: April 12, 1946

To: Mr. Frederick B. Lyon  
Chief, Division of Foreign Activity Correlation  
State Department  
Washington, D. C.

RECEIVED BY  
ON 2/3/88

From: John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subject: ALBERT CAMUS, was  
Albert Camus, P. F. Corus  
SPECIAL INQUIRY

Reference is made to your communication dated January 31, 1946, wherein it was requested that the above entitled individual, who is affiliated with the "Combat", a newspaper in Paris, France, be investigated by this Bureau.

b7C

In accordance with this request, I am forwarding herewith a copy of the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated April 1, 1946, at New York, New York. This investigation is being continued and as reports are received in this regard you will be promptly advised.

Enclosure

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

JJC:FVB  
62-80405

*By mess*

*[Handwritten signature]*

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK**

NY FILE NO. **105-460-MW**

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>4/1/46</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>2/15; 3/11, 12, 15, 23/46</b>	REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>
TITLE <b>ALBERT CAMUS, with aliases; Albert Canus, P. F. Corus</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>SPECIAL INQUIRY - STATE DEPARTMENT</b>

b7C

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Subject born 1913, Algiers, N. Africa, where he was newspaperman and maritime broker. Left Africa in 1940 because of ill health for Paris. Associated with "COMBAT" and resistance movement until recently. Is writer of austerity plays. Will give symposium on "The Crisis of Man" and is believed to be sponsored by French cultural society in Paris on lectures to be given here. Political philosophy has been described by informant as moderate, "middle of the road." Informant states after the liberation subject's organization did not join any recognized political party but individual members returned to their respective political parties. Few remained with subject with no definite objective. Information developed subject's philosophy, plays and resistance movement tended to bear more towards Communism than towards Socialism. One of sponsors for symposium described as noted painter and admirer of PICASSO, possibly Communist Party member. One informant believes subject is not Communist and that Communist movement in France is tending to become more nationalistically inclined since liberation. Subject arrived in US on 3/25/46 aboard SS OREGON. Stops placed with US Customs Service and removed.

- P -

**REFERENCE:**

Bureau letter 2/7/46, entitled **ALBERT CAMUS, with alias: P. F. Corus**

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: *E. E. Conroy* SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

**COPIES OF THIS REPORT**

5 - Bureau  
3 - New York

**COPIES DESTROYED**

**20 5 NOV 19 1964**

RECORDED

&  
INDEXED

NY 105-960

DETAILS:

The investigation in the instant case is predicated upon the referenced Bureau letter.

b2

Confidential Informant [ ] whose identity is known to the Bureau, advised that the subject's group in the resistance movement was formed originally of individuals of all political philosophies in order to form resistance against the German invaders. He stated that when liberation came, the objective of the group was gone and the group disintegrated. The individuals belonging to the group went back to their respective political parties and philosophies, for example Communism, Socialism, etc.

b7D

He related that those who formed an intimate friendship with the subject during the resistance movement remained with him as a group but probably will disintegrate inasmuch as the objective for which they were formed no longer exists and they are a group only because of their friendship with the subject.

This informant revealed he does not know the political philosophy of those who remained with the subject nor does he know the subject's beliefs.

This informant advised that the subject was not in the United States at the present time but he believed he was coming here some time in March of 1946 and that while in Paris he was associated with the newspaper "COMBAT", an influential paper which was published by the French underground during the occupation.

b2

Confidential Informant [ ] advised that the subject, whose true name is ALBERT CAMUS, not ALBERT CANUS, is a well known newspaperman in France. He believes the subject is not a Communist and does not definitely know his political philosophy. He advised that the subject was not coming here under the auspices of the French Institute but could not come here, however, other than through the benediction of the French Government. The informant has been advised by the French Embassy Service that the subject is coming to the United States and, according to his belief, will be proposed as a lecturer.

b7D

He believes that because of the subject's importance as a newspaperman, he will create a great deal of interest and be much sought after when he arrives in the United States.

NY 105-960

In discussing the subject, the informant began talking about Communism and stated he has ascertained from political observers and others that the Communist movement in France has undergone a great change. The tendency of this group is to "cut loose" from Russia and to sway toward a more nationalistic body. He stated that the subject, whom he believes is not a Communist but who has Communistic tendencies, would possibly have sentiments similar to this group.

He went on to say he never heard of the subject under the name of CORUS but the French often used pen names and possibly CORUS is the subject's pen name. He revealed that it is often hard to believe allegations of any kind concerning individuals who are Frenchmen in view of the fact that the French, as a race, often intend to discredit others in their same field, such as a Communist and a Jew, and thereby attach a derogatory reputation to an individual.

He stated that many Frenchmen have been arriving in the United States and they have individuals residing here who are, in fact, their enemies and who would do anything to discredit or hurt them.

He gave the following background information concerning the subject:

He revealed the subject was born in Algiers in 1913 and resided there until 1940, being employed as a newspaperman and maritime broker. In 1940, due to ill health, he traveled to Paris, France, where he became engaged in journalism, literature and, finally, the resistance movement. He revealed the subject was associated with "COMBAT", a leading newspaper in France and that he wrote many leading editorials and was connected with this paper until he resigned a few months ago. He has also written a number of plays, the most important of which is called "CALIGULA" and a number of essays which will probably become famous.

The subject will arrive in the United States sometime in March, sponsored by the French Cultural Service, and will give a symposium on March 28, 1946 at Columbia University together with Lieutenant THIMERAIS, F. F. I., and connected with "MINUTE EDITIONS" and the "MIDNIGHT CHRONICLES", formerly published in France. Also taking part in the symposium will be VERCORS. These three individuals are under the chairmanship of [redacted] who is a professor of French literature at Columbia University.

b7C



The informant revealed that Professor [redacted] was associated with the Office of Strategic Services during the war and, while stationed in Paris, came to know the subject quite well. He stated that he has collaborated in at least one article with him in the past.

The informant advised that in the February 23rd, 1946 issue of "THE NATION" there was an article entitled: "FRENCH EXISTENTIALISM" by HANNAH ARENDT and this article was written concerning the subject and one JEAN-PAUL SARTRE. This article was obtained by the writer and the following information extracted therefrom:

The article concerns a new movement in France called "EXISTENTIALISM" whose chief exponents are the subject and JEAN-PAUL SARTRE. This movement is explained in the article by stating:

"The French Existentialists, though they differ widely among themselves, are united on two main lines of rebellion: first, the rigorous repudiation of what they call the 'esprit serieux' and second, the angry refusal to accept the world as it is as the natural, predestined milieu of man.

"L'esprit serieux, which is the original sin according to the new philosophy, may be equated with respectability. The 'serious' man is one who thinks of himself as president of his business, as a member of the Legion of Honor, as a member of the faculty, but also as father, as husband, or as any other half-natural, half-social function. For by so doing he agrees to the identification of himself with an arbitrary function which society has bestowed. 'L'esprit serieux' is the very negation of freedom, because it leads man to agree to and accept the necessary deformation which every human being must undergo when he is fitted into society. Since everyone knows well enough in his own heart that he is not identical with his function, 'L'esprit serieux' indicates also bad faith in the sense of pretending. The way out of pretense and serious-mindedness is to play at being what one really is.

"By playing at what one is, one guards one's freedom as a human being from the pretenses of one's functions; moreover, only by playing at what he really is, is man able to affirm that he is never identical with himself as a thing is identical with itself. An inkpot is always an inkpot. Man is his life and his actions, which are never finished until the very moment of his death. He is his existence."

NY 105-960

"The second common element of French Existentialism, the insistence upon the basic homelessness of man in the world, is the topic of Camus' 'Le Mythe de Sisyphe; essay l'absurde,' and of Sartre's 'La Nausee.' For Camus man is essentially the stranger because the world in general and man as man are not fitted for each other; that they are together in existence makes the human condition an absurdity. Man is the only 'thing' in the world which obviously does not belong in it, for only man does not exist simply as a man among men in the way animals exist among animals and trees among trees--all of which necessarily exist, so to speak, in the plural. Man is basically alone with his 'revolt' and his 'clairvoyance', that is, with his reasoning, which makes him ridiculous because the gift of reason was bestowed upon him in a world 'where everything is given and nothing ever explained.'

"Camus has probably protested against being called an Existentialist because for him the absurdity does not lie in man as such or in the world as such but only in their being thrown together. Since man's life, being laid in the world, is absurd, it must be lived as absurdity--lived, that is, in a kind of proud defiance which insists on reason despite the experience of reason's failure to explain anything; insists on despair since man's pride will not allow him the hope of discovering a sense he cannot figure out by means of reason; insists, finally, that reason and human dignity, in spite of their senselessness, remain the supreme values. The absurd life then consists in constantly rebelling against all its conditions and in constantly refusing consolations. 'This revolt is the price of life. Spread over the whole of an existence, it restores its grandeur.'"

The above article has been extracted from the copy of "THE NATION" and is being made a part of the New York file.

Confidential Informant [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau, stated that he contacted [redacted] of "FRANCE AMERIQUE", a French publication in New York City, who advised him that the subject's correct name is ALBERT CAMUS. [redacted] arrived in the United States from France over two months ago and stated that while there he knew the subject, whom he believed was born in North Africa. He stated that the subject is slightly tubercular and is a writer of austerity plays, for example "CALIGULA".

b2

b7C

b7D



NY 105-960

b7C

[redacted] told the informant that the subject was an active correspondent of "COMBAT" and an intimate of [redacted] who is presently lecturing in New York City. He stated that CAMUS is due here approximately March 27, 1946 to give a lecture entitled "THE CRISIS OF MAN" on March 28, 1946 at a conference which will be held at Columbia University, New York City.

He revealed that one of the subject's associates is a Mr. VERCORS, who is considered a famous artist in the world of painters and artists. According to the informant, VERCORS is an admirer of PICASSO, who is a leader in the new school of thought for modern artists. The informant advised that PICASSO tends to bear "to the left" and, according to the informant's belief, is a member of the Communist Party.

b7C

The informant stated that he learned from [redacted] that the subject's philosophy and those in the resistance movement also bears towards the left and it is closer to Communism than towards the philosophy advanced by the Socialists. He stated that the type of play written by the subject also tends to bear out this philosophy.

This informant gave the reporting agent an article which he had cut out of "FRANCE AMERIQUE" and, although he did not recall the date of issue, he stated that it was of recent origin. This article was written in the French language and is translated as follows:

"THEATER BORN OF THE WAR"

"New tendencies in the French theater"—this was the title of the brilliant lecture given by Mr. Jean Sartre under the auspices of the American magazine "View" to a large and select audience.

"Basing himself on the work of Jean Anouilh, Simone de Beauvoir and Albert Camus, he summed up the present tendencies in our postwar theater, which has become a 'theater of austerity' as contrasted with the 'luxury theater' of 1939. The stage director merely tells people where to stand. The author does not study 'characters', but rather 'situations', and the reactions of a free man facing a determined situation in the world. With each one of the authors, there is always the drama of a choice from a moral aspect, and generally a conflict of systems. Their aim is to establish a unity among the spectators, keeping them at a distance all the while, to present problems as myths, whence comes their fondness for ancient subjects. The common ordinary, every-day language which they use is expressed with a strict economy of words; this makes translation difficult, but it gives that impression of aloofness which has been sought."

NY 105-960

"Theater of situations and of free choice, theater of catastrophes, short plays where the three unities are respected and where the number of characters corresponds to the number of conflicts which have arisen.

"These new tendencies in the French theater are due to the social conditions. The result of the occupation and the need for economy have made themselves felt even in literary phenomena.

"'Strictly Private', the author of which is the lecturer and to which he made but a modest reference, is also a play characteristic of the genre. In Paris it was received with a success which is equal to that of 'Antigone' of Anouilh. It is to be presented on Broadway at the end of this year. Let us hope that Mr. J. P. Sartre will be better understood by the Americans than his colleague was.

/s/....J. G."

Confidential Informant [ ] related that he had contacted a number of individuals with whom he was intimate in French circles in New York City and he had ascertained that the subject's paper is a moderate paper and that the subject, himself, is moderate in his philosophy. He stated that he tends to take a "middle of the road" way of thinking but is both anti-Nazi and anti-Fascist. The informant stated that while in France, the subject was pro-De Gaullist but never was violent in asserting his political beliefs. He also had a very high reputation while in France as a writer of excellent editorials, and as a writer of very good plays.

b2

b7D

Special Agent [ ] ascertained that in the issue of "The New York Times" for February 9, 1946, an article appeared which related that the subject's play "CALIGULA", which is playing to capacity audiences in Paris, has been acquired by Captain [ ] for presentation in this country. In the heading for this write-up it stated that "CALIGULA" was born for Broadway. In the write-up itself no mention was made as to where this play would be presented.

b2

b7C

b7D

Confidential Informant [ ] advised Special Agent [ ] that he had noticed a circular which stated that the FRENCH AMERICAN UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE announces for the 28th of March, 1946 at 8:30 P. M. in the McMillin Theater of Columbia University, a symposium in which the following will take part: ALBERT CAMUS, THIMERAIS and VERCORS, men of letters, whose subject was to be the "CRISIS OF MANKIND", under the chairmanship of Professor JUSTIN O'BRIEN.

NY 105-960

This circular stated that the receipts would be turned over to the organization for aid to the French schools. It was requested that tickets be obtained from Mrs. A. CARO-DELAVILLE, Cultural Department of the French Embassy, 934 Fifth Avenue, New York City. This circular gave background information concerning these three individuals.

The subject was stated to have been born in Algiers in 1913, living in Algeria until 1940, where he was engaged in several professions, among them maritime broker and journalist. He left Algeria in 1940 for health reasons and since that time he has devoted himself to journalism and literature.

During the resistance movement, with several friends, he founded the clandestine newspaper "COMBAT", where he continued to write editorials up to the time of his resignation several months ago. The circular further related that he also published clandestinely "LETTRES a un AMI ALLEMAND" (Letters to a German Friend), for the CAHIERS OF THE LIBERATION, (two letters), published in their entirety recently.

His principal works were related to be:

"L'ETRANGER" (THE FOREIGNER), Novel, 1942

"LE MYTHE DE SISYPHE" (THE MYTH OF SISYPHE), Essay, 1942

"CALIGULA", Play (Playing in Paris at present)

"LE MALENTENDU" (THE MISUNDERSTOOD PERSON), Play

It was revealed that THIMERAIS was born June 19, 1900. He studied physics and mathematics and became Assistant in Physics at the University of Lausanne in 1921. He did some research in mathematics and engaged in sociological studies since 1930. The first work published by THIMERAIS was done clandestinely, in the collection of the MIDNIGHT EDITIONS, in 1943, the title being "LA PENSEE PATIENTE" (THE PATIENT THOUGHT), an essay. At the same time from 1941 to 1944, THIMERAIS belonged to the Fighting French Forces of the Interior. Since the liberation, he has directed the "CHRONIQUES DE MINUIT" (CHRONICLES OF MIDNIGHT) from a social point of view.

Other works published since "LA PENSEE PATIENTE" are:

"ELEMENTS DE DOCTRINE" (ELEMENTS OF DOCTRINE), 1 volume, extract from a work in preparation, published clandestinely

"PERMANENCE D'UNE IDEE POLITIQUE" (PERMANENCE OF A POLITICAL IDEA)

NY 105-960

As to VERCORS, it revealed that his true name is JEAN BRULLER, born in Paris on February 24, 1902. He studied at the ECOLE ALSACIENNE (ALSATIAN SCHOOL) and received his Bachelor of Science from that school in 1919. He became an Electrical Engineer in 1922, receiving an E. P. B. diploma. He finally gave up his industrial activity for drawing. He published several satirical and humorous collections which are as follows:

"21 RECETTES PRATIQUES DE MORT" (21 PRACTICAL RECIPES FOR A VIOLENT DEATH) - 1926

"HYPOTHESES SUR LES AMATEURS DE PEINTURE" (HYPOTHESES ON LOVERS OF PAINTING) - 1927

"LA DANSE DES VIVANTS" (THE DANCE OF THE LIVING) - series of prints, published in 1929

In the meantime he has published several other albums entitled:

"LA NOUVELLE CLEF DES SONGES" (THE NEW KEY TO DREAMS)

"L'ENFER" (HELL)

"LES VISIONS INTIMES ET RASSURANTES DE LA GUERRE" (INTIMATE AND REASSURING VISIONS OF THE WAR)

"SILENCES" (SILENCES)

His career as a writer began with the defeat. Under the pseudonym of VERCORS, he published "LE SILENCE DE LA MER" (THE SILENCE OF THE SEA) in the MIDNIGHT EDITIONS which he founded with PIERRE DE LESCURE.

On March 25, 1946 the United States Customs Service, who had been previously requested to advise this office of the subject's arrival in the United States, telephonically contacted the New York Field Division and advised that the subject arrived aboard the SS OREGON on that date at Pier 86, North River, New York City. He advised the United States Customs Service that he was destined to [REDACTED]

b7C

On March 25, 1946 a letter was directed to the Washington Field Division requesting that stops placed with the United States Customs Service be removed inasmuch as the subject is now in the United States.

- P E N D I N G -



NY 105-960

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

NEW YORK

At New York, N. Y.:

b7C

Will continue investigation in this case with a view to ascertaining the identity of [ ] and the subject's relationship with him.

Will recontact informants in this case in an effort to ascertain the subject's future affiliations and activities.

NY 105-960

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

The Confidential Informants mentioned in the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated April 1, 1946 at New York, are as follows:

[redacted] formerly National Defense Informant [redacted] in the New York Field Division

b2

b7C

b7D

[redacted]  
concerning French activities in the New York area to the New York Field Division

[redacted] Former National Defense Informant [redacted] who has been discontinued as a National Defense Informant and is now a Source of Information in the New York Field Division.

These informants, who have been carried confidentially, have been so carried at their own specific request.



SAC, New York

March 29, 1946

John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

ALBE T CANUS, with alias P. F. Corus  
SPECIAL INQUIRY - STATE DEPARTMENT

Reference is made to my letter dated February 7, 1946, concerning the above-captioned individual.

It is requested that your office expedite the investigation and submit a report to the Bureau in the immediate future.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/3/88 BY 202851 JAG

RECORDED

62  
F  
53 APR

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gurnea \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Pennington \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

JJC:WMJ

367

62-80405  
SAC, New York

June 17, 1946

Director, FBI

ALBERT CAMUS, with aliases  
SPECIAL INQUIRY - STATE DEPARTMENT

Reference is made to the Bureau's letter to the New York Field Division dated February 7, 1946, requesting an investigation of the captioned individual. Reference is also made to the pending report of Special Agent [redacted] dated April 1, 1946, at New York City.

You are requested to complete the investigation in this matter and submit a report within the immediate future in order that the Department of State may be fully advised of the activities of this subject.

b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/3/88 BY 2022 BTJ/agf

TJM:WMJ  
62-80405

RECORDED

62-80405  
F B I  
58 JUN 19 1946

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Egan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gurnea \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Pennington \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

50 JUN 25 1946  
107

*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*

OBJ:EC  
77-18333

June 6, 1946

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TO: Collectors of Customs

SUBJECT: Albert Camus, with aliases,  
P. F. Corus, Albert Camus

Reference is made to the Federal Bureau of Investigation unnumbered circular letter dated March 14, 1946 in which you were requested to notify the nearest office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the event ALBERT CAMUS should enter into or depart from the United States at a port in your district.

In view of the information received by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, it will no longer be necessary to maintain a stop notice.

Very truly yours,

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER  
Director

Approved: [Signature]  
Bureau of Customs

Letter sent to offices requested  
June 17, 1946  
Kmyers

54 JUN 27 1946

62-80405

SAC, New York

July 17, 1946

Director, FBI

ALBERT CAMUS, with aliases  
SPECIAL INQUIRY - STATE DEPARTMENT

Reference is made to the Bureau's letter dated February 7, 1946,  
as well as the Bureau's letter dated June 17, 1946.

In view of the length of time this matter has been pending, you  
are instructed to give it your immediate attention and to forward the results  
of your inquiry to the Bureau in the immediate future.

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. E. A. Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Coffey \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Vohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Carson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Hendon \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mumford \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Jones \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Quinn Tamm \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Nease \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

JEM:bm

62-80405

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 2/3/88 BY 8803/88

EX-15

58

62-80405  
F B I  
JUL 18 1946  
2 LMS  
Y M

57 JUL 2 1946

62-80405

SAC, New York

August 2, 1946

Director, FBI

ALBERT CANUS, with aliases  
SPECIAL INQUIRY - STATE DEPARTMENT

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/3/88 BY 88BTJ/a

Reference is made to the Bureau's letter dated February 7, 1946,  
as well as the Bureau's letter dated July 17, 1946 to you concerning the  
captioned individual.

In view of the fact that this investigation is being conducted for  
the State Department you should give it your immediate attention and submit  
the results of your investigation to the Bureau in the immediate future.

JEM:bm  
62-80405

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Harbo  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn Tamm  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

RECORDED

62-80405-67410  
FBI  
53 AUG 8 1946

bm

EX-12

g. 2. 1.

RECORDED

CONFIDENTIAL  
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

**Date:** August 13, 1946

**To:** Mr. Jack B. Neal  
Chief, Division of Foreign Activity Correlation  
State Department  
Washington, D. C.

**From:** John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

**Subject:** ALBERT CAMUS

Reference is made to the memorandum from Mr. Frederick B. Lyon of January 31, 1946, concerning the captioned individual.

b7C

There is attached herewith one copy of the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated August 7, 1946, which concludes the inquiries which have been made concerning the captioned individual.

**Attachment**

JEM:IGS  
62-80405

2/3/58  
279046

Handwritten: 8-15-46  
Handwritten: 8-15-46

Handwritten: Not

- Tolson
- E. A. Tamm
- Clegg
- Coffey
- Glavin
- Ladd
- Nichols
- Rosen
- Tracy
- Acers
- Carson
- Harbo
- Hendon
- Mumford
- Starke
- Quinn Tamm
- Nease
- Gandy

DE-INDEXED  
DATE: 2-12-59  
4



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK**

NY FILE NO. **105-960** BEO

REPORT MADE AT <b>NEW YORK</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>8/7/46</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>5/4, 30, 6/12; 7/1, 23/46</b>	REPORT MADE BY <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 150px; height: 20px; display: inline-block;"></div> <b>b7C</b>
TITLE <b>ALBERT CANUS, with aliases: Albert Canus, P. F. Corus</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE <b>SPECIAL INQUIRY - STATE DEPARTMENT</b>

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/3/88 BY SP8 BTJ/afg**

**DATE 2/3/88 BY SP8 BTJ/afg**



Investigation fails to develop any subversive or political activity on subject's part. Informants state they believe subject is striving in his lectures to establish a closer relationship between the cultural views of the U.S. and France and to explain his Philosophy of the Absurd. This philosophy recommends living lucidly with the absurd, enjoying life all the more fully because it has no meaning and taking advantage of the most complete liberty on earth once eternal liberty is suppressed. Subject, due to ill health and end of lecture tour, has returned to France.

- C -

*Handwritten signature/initials*

**b7C**

**REFERENCE:**

**AGENCY 100-2111**  
**REQ. REC'D 11-28-51**  
**REP'T FORW. 12-12-51**  
**BY [Signature]**

French file 62-90405.  
Report of Special Agent  New York,  
1/1/46.  
Bureau letters dated 6/17/46 and 7/17/46.

**DETAILS:**

**b2**

**b7C**

**b7D**

Confidential Informant  advised that subject, while in New York City, was living at temporary residence. It was his opinion that upon his arrival subject stayed with  for a short time and also resided with an unknown family at  for another temporary period. He revealed that  to the Cultural Attache of the French Consulate, whose name is  It is  duty in the United States to foster French culture.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 40px; display: inline-block;"></div>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT  5 - Bureau 3 - New York <i>1cc with letter 7/12/46</i> <b>COPIES DESTROYED</b> <b>20 5 NOV 13 1964</b>		<b>62-90405</b> <b>AUG 6 1946</b>	<b>RECORDED</b>  <b>INDEXED</b>  <b>EX-12</b>

NY 105-960

Informant related that he recently read an article in the New York Herald Tribune by Professor JUSTIN O'BRIEN, of the Department of Romance Languages of Columbia University, concerning CAMUS. In this article O'BRIEN referred to the subject as the boldest writer in France today and called him a novelist, dramatist, and philosopher of the absurd. Herein he related that ever since subject and PASCAL PIA had founded the clandestine newspaper "COMBAT" to mock the German and Vichy censors, ALBERT CAMUS editorials have been distinguished for their clairvoyance and directness. After the liberation of France CAMUS' newspaper came into the open and took its place as the most vigorous in Paris. At this time subject became the spokesman of the "pure resistance" group. The article went on to state that in literature CAMUS is an independent who, recognizing the absurdity of human life borne of the conflict between man's eternal longing for a logical explanation of the universe and the complete irrationality of life, recommends rather living lucidly within the absurd, enjoying life all the more fully because it has no meaning, and taking advantage of the most complete liberty on earth once eternal liberty is suppressed. His attitude is tantamount to a permanent state of revolt against the absurdity of life. The absurd man lives more freely by refusing nothing and by remaining painfully lucid in the face of life's irrationality.

b2  
b7D Confidential Informant [ ] whose identity is known to the Bureau, revealed that subject came to the United States to lecture in colleges on the east coast while on a speaking tour in an effort to promote his philosophy of the absurd and to strengthen French culture in the United States. Informant did not know how long this tour would take or how long CAMUS would remain in the United States. He stated, however, that he has ascertained that subject is one of the three most brilliant names in contemporary French literature, the others being THIERAIS and VERCORS.

Informant revealed that subject had spoken on ~~the~~ "Crisis of Mankind" at the 10 MILLIN THEATER of Columbia University during the month of April. In his talk he called the crisis "the use of consecutive terrors to a perversion of values so that a man and a historic force are no longer judged according to the function of their dignity, but according to their success." Subject revealed that the characteristics of this crisis is the desire for power brought about by fear, the replacement of real man by the political and historical man, the reign of abstractions and fatality, and solitude without a future. He stated that these different aspects can only be solved by removing the world from the congestion of terror and rejecting all forms of realistic and fatalistic thought, to give politics a secondary place and to keep it entirely out of the philosophic and moral domain, to reconcile pessimistic thought and an optimistic section, and finally to create a universalism. Subject concluded by stating that if this is

NY 105-960

done the world will then become a world of men and women, productive work, and reflective leisure.

Informant stated that during the two years preceding the liberation of France subject wrote extensively for underground newspapers and reviews, for "COMBAT" and also for the REVIEW LIBRE and CAHIERS DE LA LIBERATION. It was informant's sincere belief that certain pieces that subject did for these papers constituted one of the most important contributions to "resistance writing". He also stated that in an article he had read concerning subject he found subject described as follows: the philosophical point of departure of subject's philosophy is a noble, courageous, but resolutely atheistic humanism, that all his literary production is heavy with despair, not facile, adolescent despair, but the anguished perception that man is a stranger, alone and helpless in an absurd world.

Informant revealed that in a recent issue of FRANCE AMERIQUE he had noted that subject gave a series of lectures in April at Harvard University, Wellesley College, the French Institute, and the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. According to informant, subject's lectures merely intended to show France's cultural attitude so as to foster a closer relationship between the culture of France and the United States and also to express his philosophy of the absurd man.

It was noted in the April 20, 1946 issue of the French newspaper LA VICTOIRE that subject's contemporaries THIERAIS and VERCOES had already gone back to France.

It was further noted that in the May 19, 1946 issue of FRANCE AMERIQUE the following information was contained concerning the subject's lecture at Brooklyn College on May 1, 1946, which information is being quoted from that issue:

"On May 1st, 1946 Brooklyn College celebrated its second annual French Day. The college inaugurated its French Day in the autumn of 1944, shortly after the Liberation. This year by chance the celebration came on the 1st of May, the day of the May lily and of the workers. Thanks to the kindness of the Cultural Bureau of the French Embassy, the college had the great privilege of welcoming ALBERT CAUS. The president of the college, Mr. HARRY P. GIDYONSE, made a short speech on France, a country which he knows so well and which he loves. He told the students and teachers who had assembled there that for him France was the country of quality and not of quantity and that he hoped that she would

NY 105-960

"continue to play her traditional role, etc.

"..... ALBERT CAMUS had just finished his tour of the universities and the colleges of the East; Brooklyn College was his last stop. He told the students his impressions of the youth of America with whom he had had occasion to speak and to have discussions during his tour. According to CAMUS, young people are the same all over the world. He expected to find the youth of America, however, more excitable than they really were, he said. Man's greatest temptation, said CAMUS, is inertia. The ordinary man feels that if he does his job well, he is discharging all his responsibilities. But it is not enough to do one's job. Youth must take part in the struggle, for the world will be saved by this generation or else it will not be saved. The problems and the doubts of American youth are the same as those of the youth of Europe. There are no longer any national problems; there are only international problems. There is especially 'a solidarity due to misfortune'. If we no longer accept the principle of might, we must fight incessantly and passionately. Otherwise the world is lost. One must have compassion for one's fellow creatures.

"Mr. CAMUS spoke of pessimism and optimism. European pessimism believes that all of life is a tragedy and American optimism sees all of life as good and marvelous. A synthesis of American optimism and of the pessimism of the youth of France must be made. It is necessary to bring about solidarity and sympathy between the two countries and also to find signs of compassion for mankind. This synthesis between optimism and pessimism is what CAMUS calls a classical civilization. It is necessary to build on the basis of feeling a United States of the world which has not been able to be accomplished on a juridical basis. Hope for a better world can be brought about by closer ties between American students and French students. American students must send food to their French comrades, they should exchange letters, and what is even more important, when material conditions become better, thousands of American students should be sent to France and thousands of French students should be sent to America, so that there could be an uninterrupted stream of exchange students between the youth of the two countries.

"At the close of his lecture, Mr. CAMUS offered to answer questions. Naturally, he was asked if he was an existentialist. He answered that he was not, because existentialism claims that it can answer all the problems of this world which is impossible for a single philosophy and that besides, he wished to have the freedom to say yes as well as no."

Under a suitable pretext it was ascertained through the French



NY 105-960

newspaper L'ANCIENNE, 730 Fifth Avenue, New York City; the FRENCH PRESS AND INFORMATION SERVICE, 501 Madison Avenue, New York City; and the FRENCH CULTURAL SERVICE IN THE U. S., which is located at the French Consulate, that CA'US, due to ill health and the completion of his tour, returned to France some time between the first and the fourteenth of June, 1946.

b7C

[redacted] at the French Consulate, was contacted on July 23, 1946 under pretext and revealed that subject returned to France several weeks ago due to the completion of his lectures here, which numbered approximately five or six in all.

The investigation in instant case failed to develop any subversive or political activity on the part of the subject.

C L O S E D

NY 105-960

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT

The Confidential Informant mentioned in the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated August 7, 1946 at New York, N. Y. is as follows:

[redacted] [redacted] formerly National Defense Informant [redacted] in the New York Field Division.

b2

b7C

b7D